Tech Tools for the LOTE Classroom



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<http://www.nearpod.com>

**What's It Like?**

*Nearpod* is the go-to tool for interactive presentations and assessments. At the Nearpod website, teachers create their own multimedia presentations or use a growing library of pre-made offerings (many CCSS aligned and some at a cost). They can upload videos, images, audio clips, and PDF files and can embed multiple-choice quizzes, slide shows, polls, draw-its (students write directly on a slide), and open-ended questions. Teachers launch the presentation and monitor progress either from the website or through the app. Using the *Nearpod* app on their devices, students input their names to access the content and submit responses.

With *Nearpod*, teachers can interact with students as they move through the presentations and can view student responses in real time. Students enjoy the opportunity to take ownership of their learning rather than passively viewing a teacher-directed whole-class presentation. Teachers can control the timing or launch homework sessions in which students move through at their own pace. Either way, teachers are aware of who is and who isn't viewing the presentation, which helps with classroom management and reinforces appropriate use of technology in the classroom.

**Is It Good For Learning?**

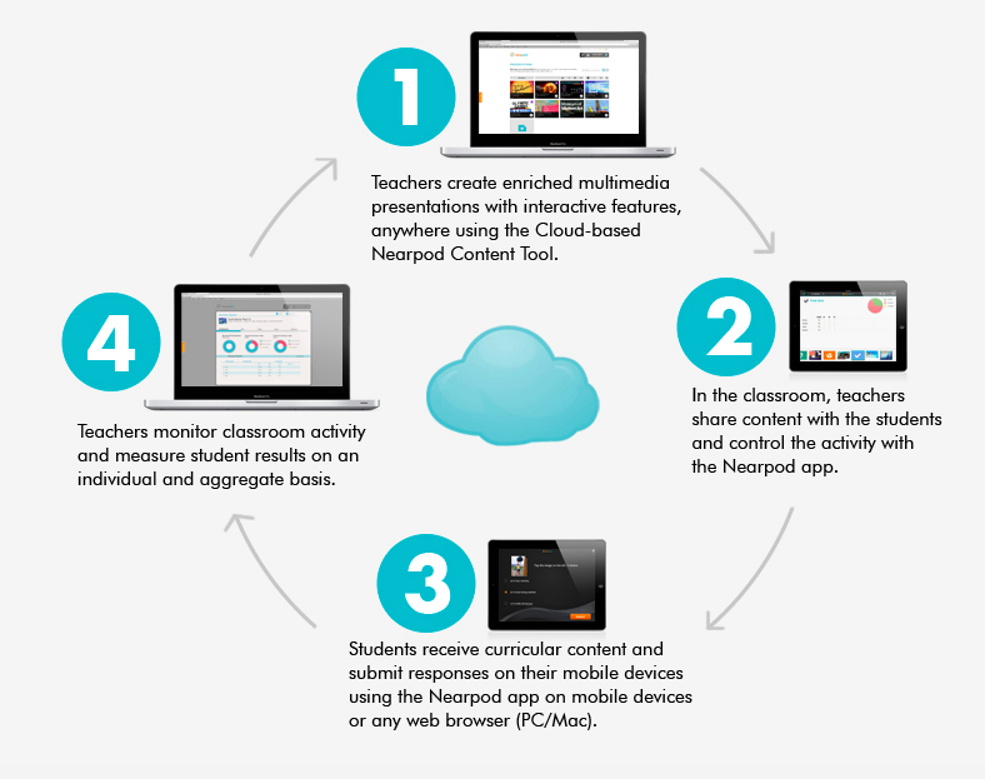
The presentations provide opportunities for skill development across the curriculum and multiple ways to improve student learning. Students can see immediate results when they draw on a map, respond to a poll question, or take a multiple-choice quiz. In addition, students can review key concepts when they watch videos or read over notes. Whether students draw key locations on a map of China, respond to a poll question on tropical forests, watch a video on how to solve a quadratic equation, review notes on the different parts of speech, or submit an open-ended response analyzing a primary document, they're interacting with the content in a meaningful way. For situations where direct instruction is a necessity, Nearpod offers a fantastic way to increase student involvement. It would be nice to see some collaborative features like a backchannel or group annotation capabilities. Also, it would be great if students could make presentations as well (the tool is only set up for teacher creation).

The pre-made presentations, created by certified publishers and educators, are high quality. Many are free, and those that cost are reasonably priced. Highlights include a series of world history presentations for high school students, a Common Core-aligned presentation on quadrilaterals for 4th graders, and a presentation on Newton’s Laws for middle school students.

**How Can Teachers Use It?**

Teachers can use *Nearpod* effectively in the classroom to support student learning in a variety of ways. As an assessment tool, *Nearpod* provides immediate feedback and opportunities for re-teaching. When students receive quiz scores, they can ask questions to clarify errors in their understanding of the content instead of waiting until a paper copy is handed back a week later. As a presentation tool, students move through content at their own pace which allows for differentiation. Teachers may also choose to provide students with different presentations to further individualize instruction.  As an interactive tool, students complete polls and results are immediate for classroom discussion. As a homework tool, students access the assignment outside of the classroom on their own device using the free app or on the website. They respond to open-ended questions that the teacher can review online and use to prepare follow-up lessons based on areas of need. And finally, as an instructional tool, teachers can project student work to the class to discuss, review, or evaluate individual responses.

From <<https://www.graphite.org/app/nearpod>>



Machine generated alternative text:
Nearpod retweeted 
Jessica Vannasdall @mrsvannasdall • 21h 
ss using student created @nearpod to help each other learn and practice 
Greek/Latin roots. Love interactive elements! 
View more photos and videos 

Machine generated alternative text:
Nearpod retweeted 
Sophia James @MrsSophia James • Jan 16 
Finding the perimeter of polygons with #Nearpod. 100% engagement!! 
Yes! @CWTESPrincipal @nearpod #3rdgrade 
Ibi 
5 
View more photos and videos 



<http://www.ThingLink.com>

**What's It Like?**

ThingLink is a web-based tool for embedding multimedia content in an image or collection of images. The image-embedding process, for both teachers and students, simply involves uploading an image and linking it to other resources on the web. Links can lead users to informational webpages, audio recordings, and videos. Prompts guide users most of the way, and there's a Search Content option, which helps support the embedding process with links to commonly used web resources.

The educational version of the platform -- designed just for students and teachers -- features the addition of "channels" that can be used for specific classes or class projects and are only accessible by members of the registered class or group. ​Teachers can register students, arranging them into specific groups or classes.

**Is It Good For Learning?**

To understand ThingLink's full potential, teachers may want to let students lead the way -- they'll immediately embrace the opportunity to work with the media they're used to consuming outside of school. And they're likely to find it a great way to share what they know about a specific subject or research topic. The site's emphasis on images rather than text can help students with a variety of learning styles and literacy levels find a way to share their learning and express themselves. Using ThingLink can easily support students in meeting Common Core media literacy expectations.

The site could do a bit more to help teachers who prefer step-by-step user guides and specific guidelines, as ThingLink could initially frustrate those less familiar with web linking. Also, there's a notable time investment needed up front in order to create projects and assignments that the site can support.

**How Can Teachers Use It?**

The flexibility of ThingLink invites a lot of possibilities. Teachers can use the site to collect tagged images, creating an interactive slideshow to introduce a new unit. Or, working individually or in groups, students can use ThingLink to tag a collage of images related to a specific subject, to tag maps and charts with annotations and related videos and recordings, or to create a story told in tagged images.

The ease with which images can be collected and tagged encourages both formative and summative assessment, providing teachers with a great way to gauge what students know, both midway through a unit and at its conclusion. That said, teachers will likely want to establish specific guidelines in terms of what links and sites students use. Teachers might also want to incorporate a speaking or writing assessment to accompany students' projects, as it would be easy to game the system by clicking without in-depth understanding.

This review of ThingLink was written by [Amy Lauren Botula](https://www.graphite.org/users/amy-lauren-botula)

From <<https://www.graphite.org/website/thinglink>>



ThingLink LOTE Examples:

**Aprenda acerca de la casa**

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/630042239426363392>

**En savoir plus sur France**

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/629708511458099201>

**FIFA World Cup**

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/465658639818948610>

Central America

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/576432778787160064>

Physical Features of Europe:

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/501818053126782978>